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U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park, said Monday he is acting to warn parents about the "Second Life" social networking site, which he said does not restrict minors from accessing sexually explicit areas of the Internet.

He also said that Second Life and other sites, such as MySpace and Facebook, can give child predators access to minors.

"As more kids flock to these sites, we've seen a corresponding increase of online sexual predators targeting children," Kirk said. "As new technologies develop, more disturbing revelations unfold. Sites like Second Life offer no protections to keep kids from virtual 'rape rooms,' brothels and drug stores. If sites like Second Life won't protect kids from obviously inappropriate content, Congress will."

Kirk has written a letter to William E. Kovacic, chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, asking that the commission to help warn parents about Second Life.

"If Second Life is unwilling to protect minor children from explicit material on their Web site, it is imperative that we warn parents of the danger Second Life represents so they can effectively monitor their children's Internet usage," he wrote.

Kirk is also again seeking passage of his proposed "Deleting Online Predators Act," which passed the House in 2006 but died in the Senate.

The act would require schools to prevent children from accessing social networking Web sites and chat rooms like MySpace unless they are doing so for a legitimate educational purpose and are under adult supervision.

It also would require public libraries to prevent children from accessing these Web sites unless they have permission from a parent.